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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

HELD AT PHILADELPHIA FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

VOL. XL. JANUARY, 1901. No. 165.

Stated Meeting, January 4, 1901.

Vice-President WISTAR in the Chair.

Present, 10 members.

The Librarian laid upon the table the list of donations to the Library, and thanks were ordered therefor.

The decease was announced of the Rt. Hon. Lord Armstrong, at Cragside, Rothbury, England, on December 27, 1900, at the age of 90 years.

Dr. R. W. Shufeldt presented a paper on "The Osteology of the Cuckoos (Coccyges)."

The Judges of the Annual Election for Officers and Councillors, held this day between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, reported that the following-named persons were elected, according to the Laws, Regulations and Ordinances of the Society, to be the officers for the ensuing year:

President.

Frederick Fraley.

Vice-Presidents.

Coleman Sellers, Isaac J. Wistar, George F. Barker.

Secretaries.

I. Minis Hays, Samuel P. Sadtler, Edwin G. Conklin, Arthur W. Goodspeed.

Treasurer.

Horace Jayne.

Curators.

J. Cheston Morris, Benjamin Smith Lyman, Henry Pettit.

Councillors to serve for three years.

Richard Wood, Henry Carey Baird, Samuel G. Dixon, Joseph G. Rosengarten.

The Society was adjourned by the presiding officer.

THE OSTEOLOGY OF THE CUCKOOS.

[COCCYGES.]

(Plates I and II.)

BY DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

(*Read January 4, 1901.*)

INTRODUCTION.

My first paper evidencing any special interest in the structure of the Cuckoos was published in *The Ibis*, of London, July 1, 1885 (pp. 286–288), and was entitled "On the Coloration in Life of the Naked Skin-tracts on the Head of Geococcyx californianus," being illustrated with a fine colored figure of the head of the Californian Road-runner, natural size. In this paper the osteology of *Geococcyx* was not touched upon, it merely calling attention for the first time in science to the brilliant scarlet coloration of the naked areas on the back of the head of the bird in question. This paper was, however, soon followed by another in January, 1886, in which a complete account of the skeleton of *Geococcyx californianus* was given, illustrated by three plates, devoted to figuring the skull from three or four points of view, and also all the other bones in the osseous system of this species. It was published in *The Journal of Anatomy and Physiology* (London and Edinburgh, Vol. xx, Part II, pp. 244–266, Pls. VII–IX). As in the case of a few others, this memoir is referred to again below, and is indeed, without its figures, substantially reproduced in the present work, after having been thoroughly revised (and augmented slightly) by myself. Al-